happened at 3 P.M. whereas the examination commenced at 2.30 P.M. The case has since been handed over to the CBI for investigation.

On the basis of the inquiry conducted by the UPSC, the Commission have come to the conclusion that there is no reason to believe that there had been leakage of the question paper before the commencement of the examination compromising its integrity. A decision has ,therefore, been taken by the Commission not to cancel the examination.

Pending Pension/Family Pension Cases

1611. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued certain instructions to all Ministries/Departments that Pension/family pension cases and related issues are to be disposed of during the stipulated period failing which interest on dues of retired officials/families of deceased Government Servants would be paid by Government;

(b) if so, whether all such cases have accordingly been disposed of during the last five years (upto 31st July, 1992) by Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances and Pensions; and

(c) if so, the details of such cases pending/disposed of at a later stage and the amount of interest paid against delayed cases/proposed to be paid or not to be paid with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. Rules provide for payment of interest only on delayed payment of retirement gratuity/death gratuity.

(b) and (c) Interest is payable if it is clearly established that the delay in payment was attributable to administrative lapse and that the delay was not caused on account of failure on the part of the Government servant in complying with the procedure laid down for sanction of pension/family pension. The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. Similarly decisions for payment of interest on delayed payment of gratuity are also taken on a decentralised basis with the approval of the Secretary of the Ministry/Department concerned. The approval of the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare is not required for payment of interest. The information in the manner desired is, therefore, not centrally available.

SC/ST Backlog in Services

1612. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister's conference held during October, 1991 in New Delhi had decided to fill up the SC and ST backlog in services by the end of March, 1992;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies filled during the period October, 1991 to March, 1992; and

(c) the detailed position of SC and ST backlog in the various Ministries/Departments/Corporations of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Special Recruitment Drive was undertaken to fill up the backlog of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as on 31-3-91 in Ministries/Departments of the Central Government. A backlog of 20041 was identified under the Drive against which 9271 candidates were offered appointment. A similar